



News Release

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State fines Kitsap County water system owner for neglect

OLYMPIA — The Department of Health is fining GMA Utilities Co. \$22,680 for failing to address serious maintenance problems at the Green Mountain Acres water system. Ignoring the repairs poses a public health threat to the 29 Kitsap County homes the utility serves.

The department imposed the penalty after GMA Utilities failed to:

- submit design and construction documents for a new reservoir to replace a dilapidated water tank that could fail at any time;
- hire a state-certified operator to run the water system;
- make and document a series of repairs to the system, including pump house and wellhead maintenance; and begin a source water quality assessment; and
- notify customers that their water system has substantial compliance issues, is in extremely poor shape, and puts public health at risk. Owners are required under federal and state law to notify their customers when problems arise.

“This is unacceptable. The problems at Green Mountain Acres water system pose serious health risks to its customers,” said Clark Halvorson, director of the agency’s Office of Drinking Water.

“We prefer to partner with water systems to solve problems, but the owner has been unwilling to do so.”

The registered agent for the Kirkland-based GMA Utilities Co. is Noel Tiffany (also known as Noel Miller). She has 28 days from the date she receives the document to file an appeal with the state Department of Health’s Adjudicative Services Unit.

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“We’re supporting the customers’ petition to the Kitsap Public Utility District #1 to operate this water system,” Halvorson said. “I’m pleased to say that it looks very promising, and we’re grateful to have a partner like the utility district to step up and help these customers.”

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